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SATURDAY, AUGUST 19, 1876.]

( 814 )  
[CONFIDENTIAL.]

SELECTIONS  
FROM THE  
VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS

PUBLISHED IN THE PANJAB,  
NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES,  
OUDH, AND CENTRAL PROVINCES,

Received up to 12th August, 1876.

POLITICAL.

GENERAL.

The *Rahbar-i-Hind* of the 8th August, referring to the recent murder of a native in Rawal Pindi by a British soldier, remarks that the murderer should be hanged. It strongly condemns the unjust partiality of the Anglo-Indian journalists towards their countrymen, which justifies the belief of the latter that India has come to be regarded by Europeans as a mere hunting-ground.

The writer is inclined to ascribe the frequent failures of justice in Indian courts to two causes,—the sympathy of English officers with their countrymen, and the exclusion of natives from juries. To prevent national prejudices from biasing and warping the judgment of an officer, it is necessary that it should be brought under native surveillance; and this can be best effected by appointing natives to the Indian Legislative Council and to the various Secretariats of local Governments and Administrations. The present restrictions which limit the choice of juries from among the European and Eurasian classes should also be removed. In trials in which one of the



two parties is a native and the other a European, the juries should be composed of equal numbers of natives and Europeans. No doubt these reforms will necessitate material changes and modifications in long-established laws and practices; but no consideration of labour and trouble should deter Government from carrying them into effect, in order to secure the life and property of the native population from the injustice of its own courts.

The *Aligarh Institute Gazette* of the 4th August discusses the question why natives are not nominated to juries in trials in which their own countrymen are concerned. Why are they not allowed to share this privilege in common with Europeans? Is it because they have not a fair complexion? or is it because Government doubts their ability or honesty? If Government is guided in its policy by the former consideration, the Proclamation of Her Majesty, which recognises no distinction of colour or creed, and holds out equal privileges to her Indian and English subjects, is virtually annulled. If this exclusion of natives from juries arises from a distrust on the part of Government of their ability or honesty, it is, says the writer, a matter of extreme wonder. Since they are eligible to High Court Judgeships, since Civil Service examinations are thrown open to them, there can be no reason to question their fitness in every respect to be jurors. The editor continues in a similar strain to argue the claims of his countrymen to be appointed jurors like Europeans. In cases where natives and Europeans are concerned, juries consisting exclusively of the latter naturally do not command the confidence of the people, and it is therefore but just they should be composed equally of both sections of the community.

The same paper, adverting to the alleged cause (the rupture of the spleen from the blow of an artillery-man) of the death of a punkah coolie at Saugor, is unable to determine whether every native of India has a morbid enlargement of the spleen, or whether an Englishman always manages to



select a man so diseased for his victim. This doubt, says the writer, is not unjustified, since the previous existence of some such disease is invariably discovered in the deceased; just as, on the other hand, the murderer is invariably said to have been drunk or insane at the time. In short, it is doubtful whether homicide has now entirely ceased to be held illegal, or whether such murderous deeds, when committed by Europeans, are not heinous enough to bring punishment upon the perpetrators.

Lord Lytton may be anxiously waiting at this moment to see the effect a Viceroy's rebuke will produce on his subordinates. If this petted clique should again behave on this occasion, as it did in the Fuller case, which called forth the Viceroy's censure, His Lordship will be fully convinced that the blood of natives is held of less value than water by his countrymen; and that the universal indignation of the native populations of India is not unfounded.

The *Panjabi Akhbār* of the 5th August, referring to the recent order of the Government Stationery Office, asking Indian paper manufacturers to submit samples of papers fit for use in Government offices, observes that it is mere mockery. The Government in reality cares only for the prosperity of English manufactures and English industries. True, it makes fair professions about allowing freedom of trade to every country, and about encouraging native industries; but its words are inconsistent with its acts. Only the other day the Secretary of State and the Parliament took Lord Northbrook to task for levying duties on English cloth imported into India. The Government is very far from wishing to encourage and foster Indian manufactures, for they would necessarily involve the decline of the English trade. If the State had extended its helping hand to native industries by granting prizes for specimens of good workmanship in exhibitions, as is done in England, native industries would never have been reduced to their present deplorable condition.



A correspondent of the *Quah Akhbār* of the 11th August praises Lord Lytton for his action in the case *Regina versus Fuller*, which is sure to deter Europeans from ruthlessly killing natives, and suggests that Englishmen should adopt the system of fining their servants, in place of inflicting corporal punishment, which so frequently causes death.

The *Anand Lahari* of the 4th idem states, on the authority of a contemporary, that the Governor-General of India is allowed to get two shillings and three pence for every rupee he sends home. The editor remarks that by this concession India suffers a loss of eight pence for every rupee which His Excellency wishes to send home, as at present one rupee fetches only one shilling and seven pence in England.

The *Malwa Akhbār* of 2nd August writes that it is rumoured that at the last visit of the Máharája of Jeypur to Simla Sir Lewis Pelly requested him to dismiss a certain officer of his at whose instigation some robberies had been committed near the Sambhar Lake, to which the Máharája did not agree. On this Sir Lewis Pelly warned the Máharája that if he did not act according to the wishes of Government it would not be well for him.

The editor remarks that the proceedings of the English in the Baroda case have clearly convinced the people of India that the fate of native chiefs depends on the arbitrary will of the Supreme Government. Neither upright character, strict administration of justice in their dominions, nor other virtues will avail them if they incur its displeasure.

The *Khatr Khwah-i-Alam* of the 11th August observes that in former days the native populations zealously strove, from feelings of loyalty to the ruling power, to win the friendship of Englishmen, and had even come to ascribe all their prosperity to the benevolent and just rule of the latter. But unfortunately the English abused this confidence; and their tyranny and injustice are gradually alienating the hearts of the people. Englishmen have utterly ceased to respect natives,



and even hold their lives of very small account. The present state of things is highly to be regretted. If a native abuses a European he is sentenced to three years' imprisonment; but an Englishman, though he may kill a native, receives no heavier punishment than a fine of Rs. 30. Referring to the Fuller case, the editor observes that there is no difference between intentionally causing hurt which ends fatally and culpable murder. In the former case death is brought about by the murderer without the direct aid of a deadly weapon, in the latter one is used. After commending the justice and philanthropy of Lord Lytton, he notices the advisability of constituting mixed juries of Europeans and natives.

The *Agra Akhbār* of the 10th August trusts that the violence of Englishmen towards natives will be checked during the just administration of Lord Lytton, and regrets the accident by which Mr. Leeds has been made a scapegoat for the crimes of his countrymen. He is a very just man and altogether free from feeling unjust partiality towards men of his own race and creed. In Mr. Fuller's case he was guilty of an error of judgment, which did not deserve to be so strongly censured.

#### NATIVE STATES.

The *Vrita Dhara* of 7th August learns from the *Satya Shodhak* that Máharáni Jamnabái, the mother of Gaekwar Saiaji Rao, has brought certain charges against Mr. Melville and Sir T. Madho Rao, and begged Government to keep a strict watch over both of them. The editor does not vouch for the truth of this rumour, and looks upon it as entirely unfounded.

The *Vakil-i-Hindustán* of the 5th August, on the authority of his Cashmere correspondent, directs the attention of the Supreme Government to the oppressions practised by State officers upon inhabitants of Cashmere. The correspondent promises to give detailed accounts of these oppressions in a subsequent letter.



## CABUL AND CENTRAL ASIA.

The *Koh-i-Nar* of 5th August in its correspondence column states that two Russian officers have arrived in Cabul, but the real object of their mission is not known. It is supposed that they have come to arrange with the Amir for the establishment of a Russian Resident in Cabul, and to induce him not to interfere in the affairs of Turkistan.

## FRONTIER.

The same paper reports that the Akhwand of Swat has issued an order prohibiting British subjects from entering into his dominions on any pretext whatever, on pain of punishment.

## ADMINISTRATIVE.

## (GENERAL.)

The *Rahbar-i-Hind* of 5th August finds fault with the Municipal Committee of Amritsar for granting a large reward to its Secretary, Mr. Nichol, for his services in the city during the visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. Such modes of wasting the tax-payers' money are very reprehensible; the municipal funds should be exclusively used to promote the public comfort and well-being. The members of the committee themselves, if anybody, deserved rewards, because they lent their services on the occasion without any remuneration; Mr. Nichol, being a servant, only did his duty.

The *Akhbar-i-Alam* of 3rd August states that, in spite of the long establishment of English rule in India, western civilization and enlightenment have not yet been diffused among the people to the extent one might have hoped. In Europe and America the wealthier classes contribute of their free accord towards works of public utility, but such is not the case in this country. The editor suggests to native chiefs and raises that they should establish schools for teaching industrial arts, and museums, and should publish translations in the vernacular languages of English treatises on various sciences and arts.



## EDUCATIONAL.

The *Majid-i-Am* of the 1st August draws the attention of Government to the undue prominence of religious instruction in aided missionary colleges and schools of the North-Western Provinces. Take, for instance, the St. John's College at Agra. In this institution promotion from one class to another, scholarships, &c., all depend on the Biblical knowledge of the students. There is something still worse. Whenever any boy leaves this institution in disgust and joins the Government college, the Principal of the former manages to have his name struck off the latter. This is most unjust. Such proselytism is quite opposed to the tolerant policy of Government in religious matters, but it is ascribed by the ignorant public to connivance of the State. It is incumbent upon Government to require missionary institutions to desist from instructing Hindú and Mahomedan students in the Christian religion, and in the event of their non-compliance to stop the Government grant-in-aid.

The *Panjábi Akhbár* of the 5th August remarks that either the number of books taught in each class of the elementary schools should be reduced, or new books better suited to the intellectual capacities of the students substituted. It will be found that scholars, as a rule, are unable to thoroughly master the present course of study. Some instructions in the rudiments of agricultural and other industrial arts might also be given with great advantage.

The *Koh-i-Núr* of the 5th August writes that, looking from the vantage ground of experience, the results of English education in the Panjáb have not been satisfactory. The State expenditure on this department since its establishment may be roughly estimated at two crores of rupees. It has indeed supplied public offices with English and Persian clerks, but beyond that it has done no good to the country. The spread of Western ideas has fostered among the rising generation a taste for European articles and furniture; and the



result of this has been the gradual destruction of native industries. The country has come to depend for the smallest commodities on England. Boys who have learnt English are ready to call the men of the old school fools, but are no whit themselves superior to them. They have neither enterprise nor moral courage. They neglect all exercise and are weak in body.

The editor recommends the establishment of a school of industry in every district, to manufacture articles of wood, iron, &c., for local consumption.

#### PRESS.

The *Shola-i-Tar* of the 8th August comments on the shrewdness of the Anglo-Indian Press. They have invented a very cunning trick of giving notice to the public of sweeps and lotteries, and at the same time of evading the penalty which the publication of such advertisements entails. In reply to applications from the Secretaries to sweeps and lotteries for the insertion of such advertisements, the editors of these papers publish a daily paragraph to the effect that they are unable to advertise the said lottery.

The *Jahva-i-Tar* of 8th August maintains that the liberty which the Vernacular Press enjoys is only a nominal one. If a journalist speaks against a district officer, the latter, it is true, can take no action against him without previously obtaining the sanction of the Governor-General, but he can annoy and harass him in a variety of ways. The editor argues that the native press cannot possess real liberty until Government appoints a special officer to try all cases between newspaper writers and district officers.

#### RAILWAY AND POST-OFFICE.

The *Panjabi Akhbar* of the 5th August complains of the uncourtesy and misbehaviour of Railway employes. A respectable native gentleman took three intermediate class tickets and one third class at the Deoband station (Saharanpur)



to Kangra, and begged the station-master to assign him a reserved compartment, as he had ladies with him. The station-master, although there were several unoccupied compartments, stubbornly refused to grant his request, observing that he should have given notice two days beforehand.

The result was that the man was left behind, and lost the value of his tickets.

The *Najam-ul-Akhbār* (Meerut) of 8th August complains that railway carriages, especially those of the third class, leak fearfully, and consequently passengers suffer a great deal of inconvenience during the rainy season.

#### LOCAL AND MISCELLANEOUS.

The *Panjābi Akhbār* of the 5th August, in its correspondence columns, finds fault with the Rájās of Lambaganwa and Kalu, situated in the Kangra district, for neglecting their own education. The Government has wisely given them tutors; but in order to avoid the labour of studying, one of them, the Rāja of Lambaganwa, has gone home on leave, and the other feigns indisposition during the hours of study.

The *Oudh Akhbār* of the 6th August repeats the complaints made by the *Mutla-i-Nūr*, dated 25th July (see *Selections* for the week ending 29th July, 1876), concerning the fearful increase of prostitutes in India. It recommends the suppression of this social evil to the serious consideration of Government and Municipal Committees. The prostitutes might be ordered to abandon their vile trade, or made to live with their companions in settlements set apart for them.

A Bombay correspondent of the *Lawrence Gazette*, dated 8th August, says that the *Akhbār-i-Jawāib*, a Turkish journal, has published a notice to the effect that Musalmans of India who wish to give pecuniary aid to Turkey might remit their contributions to its proprietor. The correspondent is of opinion that as the Turkish armies are regularly paid by the State, this money should be collected for the support of Jahadis (volunteers).



A correspondent of the *Nahar-i-Hind* of 8th August writes that the *Vakil-i-Hindustan* has been actuated by motives of jealousy and enmity in charging Munshi Mehdi Khan with illegally exacting tambol. This custom has long been in vogue in the country, and Government has never shown a disposition to interfere with its observance. Native officials—the names of a few are given—have adhered to it. The *Vakil-i-Hindustan* has greatly exaggerated the amount of tambol received by the accused. It estimates it at eleven thousand rupees, while in reality the actual amount does not exceed four thousand rupees. Men of Mehdi Khan's own caste contributed the largest portion. He indeed received tambol also from his friends, but he gave them in return *khilats*, rewards, &c. The editor of the *Vakil-i-Hindustan* is guilty of serious misstatements. From some persons whose names he has entered in his list no tambol was ever received, and from others lesser sums than those stated were received.

Officers of higher or equal rank to Mehdi Khan's cannot but be supposed to have paid tambol voluntarily and without pressure. No tambol was ever taken from *lumbardars* and *patwāris*.

The article ends with an account of the notoriously bad and dishonest life which Rajab Ali, the editor of the *Vakil-i-Hindustan*, has hitherto led. He has before now been fined, flogged, imprisoned, and debarred from the public service by order of the Panjāb Government. (For full particulars see *Panjāb Government Gazette* dated 4th October, 1861, Government order No. 2039, and *Selections* for the week ending 31st December, 1873, page 683).



# LIST OF PAPERS EXAMINED

NAME.			DATE.	
			1876.	
Mangal Samāthar,	...	...	July	1st
Nafa-ul-Azim,	...	...	"	25th
Sadiq-ul-Akhbār,	...	...	"	31st
Mahib-i-Hind,	...	...	"	31st
Mārwar Gazette,	...	...	"	31st
Musid-i-'Am,	...	...	August	1st
Guldistan Shora,	...	...	"	1st
Ashraf-ul-Akhbār,	...	...	"	1st
Mālwa Akhbār,	...	...	"	2nd
Rohilkhand Akhbār,	...	...	"	2nd
Benares Akhbār,	...	...	"	3rd
Akhbār-i-'Alam,	...	...	"	3rd
Aligarh Institute Gazette,	...	...	"	4th
Anjuman-i-Panjāb,	...	...	"	4th
Social Science Congress Gazette,	...	...	"	4th
Lah-i-Mahfāz,	...	...	"	4th
Muir Gazette,	...	...	"	4th
Anand Lahari,	...	...	"	4th
Khair Khwah-i-'Alam,	...	...	"	4th
Meerut Gazette,	...	...	"	5th
Panjābi Akhbār,	...	...	"	5th
Urdu Akhbār (Akola),	...	...	"	5th
Anjuman-i-Hind,	...	...	"	5th
Rohilkhand Akhbār,	...	...	"	5th
Nā-ul-Anwar,	...	...	"	5th
Urdu Akhbār,	...	...	"	5th
Rahbar-i-Hind,	...	...	"	5th
Khair Khwah-i-Hindustān,	...	...	"	5th
Vakil-i-Hindustān,	...	...	"	5th
Koh-i-Nūr,	...	...	"	5th
Oudh Akhbār,	...	...	"	6th
Gwalior Gazette,	...	...	"	6th
Akmal-ul-Akhbār,	...	...	"	6th
Lamah-i-Nūr,	...	...	"	6th
Kayasth Samachar,	...	...	"	6th
Patiala Akhbār,	...	...	"	7th
Lytton Gazette,	...	...	"	7th
Karnamah,	...	...	"	7th
Dab-dab-i-Sikandari,	...	...	"	7th
Vrit Dhār,	...	...	"	7th
Kavi Vachan Sudha,	...	...	"	7th
Najm-ul-Akhbār,	...	...	"	8th
Shola-i-Tūr,	...	...	"	8th
Khair Khwah-i-Hind,	...	...	"	8th
Musid-i-Hind,	...	...	"	8th
Mulla-i-Nūr,	...	...	"	8th
Lawrence Gazette,	...	...	"	8th
Jalwa-i-Tūr,	...	...	"	8th
Rahbar-i-Hind,	...	...	"	8th
Oudh Akhbār,	...	...	"	9th



CONFIDENTIAL

( 417 )

SECRET, 21 AUGUST 1976

LIST OF PAPERS EXAMINED.

NAME.				DATE.	
				1976.	
Nasir-i-Islam,	...	...	...	August	9th
Akhbar-i-Am,	...	...	...	"	9th
Amur-ul-Akhbar,	...	...	...	"	10th
Taj-ul-Akhbar,	...	...	...	"	10th
Riaz-ul-Akhbar,	...	...	...	"	10th
Agra Akhbar,	...	...	...	"	10th
Oudh Akhbar,	...	...	...	"	11th
Khair Khush-i-Alam,	...	...	...	"	11th

PREKA DAS,

Offg. Govt. Reporter, Vernacular Press, Upper India.